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pendix to the earlier work. These cases together with twenty-eight others listed in Appendix II, complete the list of those which have been put into print. "Up to the present", says Professor Baldwin, "there has not been published any comprehensive collection of cases before the king and council, upon which not only the history of the council but also in proportional measure the history of law must depend."

*Frederick C. Hicks.*

GOVERNMENT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. By EDWARD JENKS. Boston: LITTLE, BROWN & Co. 1919. pp.

Among the numerous works on the government of England, there are few which present in brief compass the essential features of the English government.<sup>1</sup> It is to fulfill this purpose that the present volume has been issued, the object of which is to give "a comprehensive view of the system under which the British Empire is governed, expressed in simple, untechnical language." Mr. Jenks covers a wide variety of topics in short and suggestive descriptions of various phases and features of the English government. His aim is to present briefly the setting for English institutions and to give a descriptive account of the government of England as it now operates. Short accounts are given of the primary framework of the English government—the Crown, the Cabinet, Parliament, and the courts. Other chapters deal with important offices within the Cabinet, with the established churches, and with local government in counties and boroughs, topics which are not often adequately considered in elementary treatises. A feature of the volume is the consideration of the colonial policies of the Empire and the nature and significance of responsible government as exemplified in the self-governing colonies.

Although prepared for those who seek a cursory view of the English government, the volume covers too many subjects and involves too great detail for those who have time for only a short course in the English government. For this purpose, the chapters of President Lowell's standard treatise are probably better adapted to students in that they contain less detail and give a more adequate account of the essential features of the English system of government.<sup>2</sup> While it may be necessary and desirable to cover most of the topics included in the volume, it is doubtful whether an adequate description can be given in short compass of so many minor matters connected with English politics and administration. Furthermore, too much emphasis has been given to the history of English institutions and not enough to the fundamental political changes of recent years. Adherence to the historical method has resulted in an arrangement of topics which renders systematic exposition impossible. One may well question whether such matters as investiture, benefit of clergy, etc., (pp. 288, 292) deserve attention in a volume whose chief aim is to describe the present system of the English government.

But allowance must be made for the extreme difficulties involved in an attempt to explain such varied and complex matters as now comprise that intricate political mechanism known as the government of

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<sup>1</sup>Cf. J. A. Marriot, *English Political Institutions*, Oxford University Press, 1910.

<sup>2</sup>A. L. Lowell, *The Government of England*, 2 v. The Macmillan Company, 1908.

England. The volume will no doubt find a place particularly in English speaking communities where it is important that many of these details be presented to elementary students who find it impossible to examine the larger works and special treatises on the English government. It would be much better if sufficient time and consideration might be given to the study of government so as to render superficial treatises of this character unnecessary.

*Charles G. Haines.*

ARGUMENTS AND SPEECHES OF WILLIAM MAXWELL EVARTS. Edited with an Introduction by his son, SHERMAN EVARTS. 3 vols. New York: THE MACMILLAN Co. 1919. Vol. I, pp. xxv, 722; Vol. II, pp. 647; Vol. III, pp. vii, 461.

Great judges have their work preserved in the law reports, but great advocates leave no records of their work accessible to the public until some careful sympathetic editor publishes such volumes as these Mr. Evarts gives us of his father's arguments and speeches. William Maxwell Evarts' legal career was so eminent as to give enduring interest to the records of it now collected. Mr. Evarts was counsel for the United States in the Prize Causes of the Civil War, counsel for President Andrew Johnson in the Impeachment Trial, Attorney General in President Johnson's cabinet, counsel for the United States before the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva, in 1872, counsel for the Republican party before the Electoral Commission in the Hayes-Tilden disputed election, Secretary of State in President Hayes cabinet and United States senator from New York State 1885-1891. This list represents only the most important of his many activities; as a member of the bar of New York City he was engaged in many notable cases. Volume one contains his most important professional arguments before various tribunals, volume two is devoted to his political speeches and writings and volume three is given up to his commemorative addresses and miscellaneous speeches. To those interested in the history and biography of the American bar this publication will be a delight.

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION. By HARRIS HAWTHORNE WILDER and BERT WENTWORTH. Boston: THE GORHAM PRESS. 1918. pp. 374.

The authors have made a readable yet scientific attempt to place before the public the various methods of personal identification in use. Particular emphasis, of course, is laid upon the system of fingerprints and a more comprehensive method of classification is suggested. Of particular interest should be two new forms of identification by the palms, and by the soles, an elementary and practical explanation of which is given.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE NARCOTIC DRUG PROBLEM. By ERNEST S. BISHOP. New York: THE MACMILLAN Co. 1920. pp. 165.

SELECT CASES BEFORE THE KING'S COUNCIL. 1243-1482. By I. S. LEADAM and J. F. BALDWIN, FOR THE SELDEN SOCIETY. Cambridge: HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS. 1918. pp. cxvii, 155.

BRITISH LABOR CONDITIONS AND LEGISLATION. DURING THE WAR. By M. B. HAMMOND. CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE. New York: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. 1919. pp. ix, 335.

TAXATION OF CORPORATIONS AND PERSONAL INCOME. By HENRY M. POWELL. New York: CLARK, BOARDMAN Co., LTD. 1919. pp. iv, 400.